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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/821,314 | 04/09/2004 | William J. Rex | REXIN-012A | 9697 |

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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| COLETTA, LORI L | |
| **ART UNIT** | **PAPER NUMBER** |
| 3612 | |

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 10/821,314 | REX, WILLIAM J. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Lori L. Coletta | 3612 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 December 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 3-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 3-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *09 April 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10-13, 15, 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crean 6,623,058 in view of Morrow 6,712,414.

Regarding claim 1, Crean '058 discloses a recreational vehicle comprising a chassis; a cab and a back wall attached to the chassis; first and second side walls disposed in opposed relation to each other and at least partially defined by portions of the cab and the back wall; and at least one slide out moveably attached to the chassis and extending from the cab to the back wall, the slide out defining an outer wall; and the slide out being selectively moveable between a retracted position whereat the outer wall is substantially flush with the first wall, and an extended position whereat the outer wall projects outwardly from the first side wall.

However, Crean '058 does not show a pair of slide outs which each define an outer wall are movably attached to the chassis in opposed relation to each other, each of the slide outs extending from the cab to the back wall, the slide outs being selectively movable between a retracted position whereat the outer walls thereof are substantially flush with respective ones of the first and second side walls, and an extended position whereat the outer walls thereof protrude outwardly from respective ones of the first and second side walls.

Morrow '414 teaches a pair of slide outs (48a and 48B) which each define an outer wall are movably attached to the chassis in opposed relation to each other, each of the slide outs extending from the front wall to the back wall, the slide outs being selectively movable between a retracted position whereat the outer walls thereof are substantially flush with respective ones of the first and second side walls, and an extended position whereat the outer walls thereof protrude outwardly from respective ones of the first and second side walls

Regarding claim 1, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '058 with a pair of slide outs, as taught by Morrow '414, in order to increase the usable interior space of the main room of the recreational vehicle.

Regarding claim 3, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle further comprising a slide out actuation mechanism attached to the chassis and cooperatively engaged to each of the slide outs, the slide out actuation mechanism being operative to move the slide outs between the extended and retracted positions.

Regarding claim 5, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle wherein the recreational vehicle further comprises an interior floor; each of the slide outs comprise a floor portion; a portion of the interior floor is exposed between the floor portions when the slide outs are moved to the extended positions; and the interior floor includes a floor section which is moveably mounted to the chasse and selectively movable between a retracted position and an elevated position between the floor portions of the slide outs; the floor sections being moveable to the elevated position when the slide outs are in the extended position, the floor section and the

floor portions of the slide outs collectively defining a generally planar floor surface when the floor section is in the elevated position.

Regarding claim 6, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle further comprising a floor actuation mechanism attached to the chassis and cooperatively engaged to the floor section, the floor actuation mechanism being operative to move the floor sections between the retracted and elevated positions.

Regarding claim 10, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle wherein each of the slide outs comprises a modular, pre-fabricated unit.

Regarding claim 11, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle wherein the recreational vehicle further comprises a roof which extends between the chassis and the back wall; and the first and second side walls are at least partially defined by portions of the cab, the back wall and the roof.

Regarding claim 12, Crean '058 discloses a recreational vehicle comprising a chassis, a cab and a back wall mounted to the chassis, and opposed first and second side walls at least partially defined by portions of the cab, the improvement comprising a slide out moveably attached to the chassis and extending from the cab to the back wall, the slide out defining an outer wall and being selectively moveable between a retracted position whereat the outer walls are substantially flush with the side wall, and an extended position whereat the outer wall protrudes outwardly from the side walls but does not show pair of slide outs.

Morrow '414 teaches pair of slide outs (48a and 48B).

Regarding claim 12, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '058, as modified, a pair of slide outs, as taught by Morrow '414, in order to increase the usable interior space of the main room of the recreational vehicle

Regarding claim 13, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle further comprising a slide out actuation mechanism attached to the chassis and cooperatively engaged to each of the slide outs, the slide out mechanism being operatively engaged to each of the slide outs, the slide out actuation mechanism being operative to mover the slide outs between the extended and retracted positions.

Regarding claim 15, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle wherein the recreational vehicle further comprises an interior floor; each of the slide outs comprises a floor portion; a portion of the interior floor is exposed between the floor portions when the slide outs are moved to the extended position; and the interior floor includes a floor section which is moveably mounted to the chassis and selectively moveable between a retracted position and an elevated position between the floor portions of the slide outs; the floor section being moveable to the elevated position when the slide outs are in the extended position, the floor section and the floor portions of the slide outs collectively defining a generally planar floor surface when the floor section is in the elevated postion.

Regarding claim 16, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle further comprising a floor actuation mechanism attached to the chassis and cooperatively engaged to the floor section, the floor actuation mechanism being operative to move the floor sections between the retracted and elevated positions.

Regarding claim 20, Crean '058, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle wherein each of the slide outs comprises a modular, pre-fabricated unit.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. Claim 4, 7, 8, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crean 6,623,058 in view of Morrow 6,712,414 as applied to claims 1 and 12 above, and further in view of Futrell et al 5,785,373.

Regarding claim 4, Crean '804, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle but does not show the slide out actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other.

Futrell et al. '373 teach a slide out actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other.

Regarding claim 4, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '804, as modified, with a slide out actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other, as taught by Futrell et al. '373, in order to provide a power mechanism to move the slide out between its extended and retracted positions.

Regarding claim 7, Crean '804, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle but does not show the floor actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other.

Futrell et al. '373 teach a floor actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other.

Regarding claim 7, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '804, as modified, with a floor actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other, as taught by Futrell et al. '373, in order to provide a power mechanism to move the floor between its extended and retracted positions.

Regarding claim 8, Crean '804, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle but does not show at least one retention mechanism cooperatively engageable to the floor section and to the floor portion of each of the slide outs, the retention mechanism being operative to secure the floor section in the elevated position.

Futrell et al. '373 teaches at least one retention mechanism cooperatively engageable to the floor section and to the floor portion of each of the slide outs, the retention mechanism being operative to secure the floor section in the elevated position.

Regarding claim 8, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '804, as modified, with at least one retention mechanism cooperatively engageable to the floor section and to the floor portion of each of the slide outs, the retention mechanism being operative to secure the floor section in the elevated position, as taught by Futrell et al. '373, in order to secure the floor section in the elevated position.

Regarding claim 14, Crean '804, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle but does not show the slide out actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other.

Futrell et al. '373 teach a slide out actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other.

Regarding claim 14, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '804, as modified, with a slide out actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other, as taught by Futrell et al. '373, in order to provide a power mechanism to move the slide out between its extended and retracted positions.

Regarding claim 17, Crean '804, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle but does not show the floor actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other.

Futrell et al. '373 teach a floor actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other.

Regarding claim 17, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '804, as modified, with a floor actuation mechanism comprises a plurality of linear actuators attached to the chassis in spaced relation to each other, as taught by Futrell et al. '373, in order to provide a power mechanism to move the floor between its extended and retracted positions.

Regarding claim 18, Crean '804, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle but does not show at least one retention mechanism cooperatively engageable to the floor section and to the floor portion of each of the slide outs, the retention mechanism being operative to secure the floor section in the elevated position.

Futrell et al. '373 teaches at least one retention mechanism cooperatively engageable to the floor section and to the floor portion of each of the slide outs, the retention mechanism being operative to secure the floor section in the elevated position.

Regarding claim 18, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '804, as modified, with at least one retention mechanism cooperatively engageable to the floor section and to the floor portion of each of the slide outs, the retention mechanism being operative to secure the floor section in the elevated position, as taught by Futrell et al. '373, in order to secure the floor section in the elevated position.

4. Claims 9 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over over Crean 6,623,058 view of Morrow 6,712,414 as applied to claims 5 and 15 above, and further in view of McManus 2002/0057000.

Regarding claim 9, Crean '804, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle but does not show a sensor system operative to selectively prevent the movement of the slide outs to the retracted position subsequent to the movement of the floor section to the retracted position.

McManus '000 teaches a sensor system operative to selectively prevent the movement of the slide outs to the retracted positions subsequent to the movement of the floor section to the retracted position.

Regarding claim 9, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '804, as modified, with a sensor system operative to selectively prevent the movement of the slide outs to the retracted positions subsequent to the movement of the floor section to the retracted position, as taught by McManus '000, in order to ensure that the slide out and floor section move together.

Regarding claim 19, Crean '804, as modified, discloses the recreational vehicle but does not show a sensor system operative to selectively prevent the movement of the slide outs to the retracted position subsequent to the movement of the floor section to the retracted position.

McManus '000 teaches a sensor system operative to selectively prevent the movement of the slide outs to the retracted positions subsequent to the movement of the floor section to the retracted position.

Regarding claim 19, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the recreational vehicle of Crean '804, as modified, with a sensor system operative to selectively prevent the movement of the slide outs to the retracted positions subsequent to the movement of the floor section to the retracted position, as taught by McManus '000, in order to ensure that the slide out and floor section move together.

***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori L. Coletta whose telephone number is 571-272-6658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lori L. Coletta

Lori L. Coletta
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612

llc
January 13, 2006